

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In January 1951, Soviet advisers in Peiping recommended that the Chinese Communists establish a naval air force instead of expanding their fleet, because of the heavy industrial and financial resources needed to build a large modern fleet. The Soviet recommendations included the concept that the naval air force would primarily be a defensive unit used to control the China coast, and its secondary use would be as an offensive unit.
2. The Chinese Communist Central Military Council concurred with these recommendations and planned to achieve the following while expanding the fleet:
 - a. Establish navy air force schools under the Central Navy Headquarters.
 - b. Establish navy air force schools in both Northeast and East China.
 - c. Send Chinese Communist Air Force personnel to the USSR to study naval flying problems.
 - d. Establish a plant to produce naval aircraft under Soviet direction.
 - e. Organize four naval air force divisions before 1955 with a total of 500 planes for assignment to six Chinese Communist fleets.
3. In January 1953 the Central People's Navy Command organized the 1 and 2 Navy Air Force Divisions.
4. In late March 1953 the 1 Division, subordinate to the 1 Fleet, was based in Northeast China with the main force at Dairen. The 2 Division, subordinate to the 3 and 5 Fleets, was based in East China with the main force at Tsingtao and one regiment along the North China coast.

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5. The 1 and 2 Navy Air Force Divisions were organized with three regiments, and each regiment consisted of three companies.
6. Each division was equipped as follows: nine reconnaissance planes, 54 pursuit planes, a total of 18 transports, trainers, and communications planes, and eight other planes. One seaplane tender was also assigned to each air division. The USSR supplied all aircraft, of which 80 were of German manufacture, including naval patrol planes and amphibian transports.
7. In late March 1953 the construction of a naval aircraft plant had either started or was about to begin.
8. In January 1953 over 180 men graduated from the first class of the aviation school for the Northeast and East China Navies, and were assigned to the Navy Air Force. The students who entered the school in August and October 1951 received three months preliminary training and 12 months academic and technical training. In late March 1953 there was a branch school at Tsingtao in the East China Navy School.

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